

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/681,384	KAMIJO ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Aline D. McNaull	2872	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendments filed 4/6/07.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 7-17 (renumbered 1-16).

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>5/1/06</u>	7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Amendments to the Claims were received on 4/10/2007. The amendments are acknowledged and accepted.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5 and 7-17 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Nicolas Seckel on 4/23/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Regarding Claim 8, "0.05" should be --0.05 µm--.

Regarding Claim 10, "or les , and" should be --or less, and--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regards to Claim 1, though the prior art teaches a polarizer comprising a monolayer film comprising a continuous phase and a dispersed phase, wherein the continuous phase comprises a matrix formed of a translucent water-soluble resin including an iodine light absorbing material, wherein the dispersed phase comprises a minute domain dispersed in the matrix, it fails to teach or disclose a polarizer wherein an absorption axis of the iodine light absorbing material is oriented in a direction of an axis showing a maximum refractive index difference between the birefringent material forming the minute domain and the translucent water-soluble resin as set forth in the Claimed combination. Claims 7, 9, 11-17 depend on Claim 1 and hence are allowable for at least the reasons Claim 1 is allowable.

With regards to Claim 2, though the prior art teaches a polarizer comprising a monolayer film comprising a continuous phase and a dispersed phase, wherein the continuous phase comprises a matrix formed of a translucent water-soluble resin including an iodine light absorbing material, wherein the dispersed phase comprises a minute domain dispersed in the matrix, it fails to teach or disclose a polarizer wherein the minute domain is formed of an oriented birefringent material as set forth in the claimed combination. Claims 3-5 depend on Claim 1 and hence are allowable for at least the reasons Claim 1 is allowable.

With regards to Claim 8, though the prior art teaches a polarizer comprising a monolayer film comprising a continuous phase and a dispersed phase, wherein the

continuous phase comprises a matrix formed of a translucent water-soluble resin including an iodine light absorbing material, wherein the dispersed phase comprises a minute domain dispersed in the matrix, it fails to teach or disclose wherein the minute domain has a length of 0.05 μm through 500 μm in a direction perpendicular to the direction of an axis showing a maximum refractive index difference between the birefringent material forming the minute domain and the translucent water-soluble resin.

With regards to Claim 10, though the prior art teaches a polarizer comprising a monolayer film comprising a continuous phase and a dispersed phase, wherein the continuous phase comprises a matrix formed of a translucent water-soluble resin including an iodine light absorbing material, wherein the dispersed phase comprises a minute domain dispersed in the matrix, it fails to teach or disclose a polarizer wherein a transmittance to a linearly polarized light in a transmission direction is 80% or more, a haze value is 5% or less, and a haze value to a linearly polarized light in an absorption direction is 30% or more.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aline D. McNaull whose telephone number is 571-272-8043. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephone B. Allen can be reached on 571-272-2434. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ADM.
ADM
4.20.07



Stephone B. Allen
Supervisory Patent Examiner